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ANNUAL MEETING.

THE third Annual Meeting of the Apollo Association, for the promotion of the Fine Arts in the United States, was held in their Exhibition Room, "Granite Building," corner of Broadway and Chambers street, on Monday evening, 27th December, 1841. At an early hour the room was filled with the members and their families, and at about half past 7 o'clock, the President, Dr. Francis, took the Chair, and opened the meeting with an eloquent Address, from which we are permitted to make the following extracts :

"This Anniversary still finds us in the successful prosecution of the laudable objects of our Association. During the past year, as in the preceding years, we have advanced steadily both in pecuniary aid to the Fine Arts, and in the number of our contributors. The institution, from being comparatively local in its influence, has become conterminous with our wide spread republic, and derives its support equally from the generous patrons of the Arts of Design in the remotest cities of the Union, as well as from the inhabitants of that metropolis in which it was originally organized.

"The Annual Report, which you will listen to this evening, and which I can only allude to at present, will furnish you with details most gratifying on many points, and amply realizes the fondest expectations which were cherished by the first promoters of the Association. In the purchase and sale of the works of Art which this institution has been the means of effecting, substantial patronage has been rendered to genius, and effective stimulus to future exertions. The print of this year, authorized for publication by the appropriate committee, like that of the past year, commemorative of an occurrence in the life of the patriot Marion, painted by our countryman, White, will be submitted to your inspection at this time. It justly lays claim to that approba-

tion and applause which has been so generously conceded to it, as the happy conception of a high genius, for novelty of design and felicity of execution. Its want of elaboration and minuteness of detail may be ascribed to peculiar circumstances of a controlling nature. It is the work of the unfortunate Comegys, in mezzotint by Sartain.

“When we advert to the high rank which many of our countrymen enjoy abroad, honored by European patronage and reputation, a neglect of the same kindred talent at home would convey to the polite nations of Europe a most unwelcome satire upon our republican institutions. It is incumbent on America to cherish that talent to which she has given birth, and I cannot but hope that the present institution will long be recognised among the most effectual means of awakening national pride to the claims of those whose exertions can only be called into action, or rewarded, by enlarged and liberal patronage.”

The minutes of the last meeting were then read and approved.

Abner Benedict, Esq., on behalf of the nominating committee, appointed at a meeting of the Association, held on the 6th inst., presented a Report, submitting a list of persons recommended for officers and committee of management for the ensuing year, and offered for the suffrages of the members at the election this evening—which was accepted.

Daniel Elliot, Esq., of the committee of management, then read the following Annual Report.

REPORT

*Of the Committee of Management of the Apollo Association,
December 27, 1841.*

In obedience to the requirements of the Constitution, the Committee of Management beg leave to lay before their Associates a statement of the affairs of the institution for the current year.

During the preceding year, much inconvenience was experienced from the want of permanent and proper accommodations for the exhibitions, meetings, and business of the Association. One of the first subjects of consideration, therefore, was the selection of such apartments as should answer these purposes satisfac-

torily, and give to the Association a respectable and convenient local habitation.

That the exhibitions should not be abandoned, although heretofore a pecuniary tax, appeared to your Committee to be a general sentiment both of the Artists and Amateurs, who had liberally contributed to their support by the loan of their works, and of the Associates, who had given their subscriptions with a view to this, as one of the privileges of membership. It was thought, also, that a more central location, with accommodations of an unexceptionable character, would ensure an increase of receipts, and add to the gratification of all who take an interest in the objects of our Association. With these views, the present ample accommodations were secured, at the expense of \$700 per annum, with the privilege of under-letting the gallery when not in use. So far as regards the furnishing an agreeable and convenient place of resort for the Artists and Associates, and in the increase of their attendance, our expectations have been realized; but in the anticipated amount of receipts from casual visitors, your Committee regret to say that they have been disappointed. Two exhibitions have been held in the gallery, and both of acknowledged excellence, but the receipts have fallen far short of the expenses. The plan of a series of exhibitions, calculated to promote the interests of the Artists, and to cultivate a taste for the Arts, was a favorite object in the formation of the institution, and not lightly to be abandoned. But the fundamental object—that of raising a fund for the purchase of meritorious works of Art—must be kept steadily in view. The result of the present years experiment, made on a liberal scale, and in a favourable location, is such as to induce your Committee to recommend, however reluctantly, that not more than a single exhibition shall be undertaken, in future, during the year.

The subject of an engraving for distribution among the subscribers, engaged the early attention of the Committee. It was thought desirable to select some subject connected with our national history, as a proper sequence to that of the previous year; but no such recent work could be found, of sufficient merit and general interest. The Committee have, therefore, selected an

original work of the imagination, one of the last and most admired productions of the unfortunate Comeygs, of Philadelphia. This gifted and aspiring young Artist—full of genius and enthusiasm, whose dreams, by night and by day, were of the great names that have become immortal in the history of the Arts,—has here shadowed forth his aspirations to be enrolled as one of their fraternity. But the hand of stern necessity was upon him, and he was denied the privilege of visiting the lands consecrated by their genius, and of contemplating the great works he so ardently desired to emulate. His ardent spirit sunk under frequent disappointments, till at length reason forsook her throne, and he is now dead to the Arts—a mental wreck. The few works he has produced are cherished by his friends as relics, and nothing but a desire to do honour to his favourite, could have induced the possessor of the “Artist’s Dream” to submit it to the hands of the engraver. We trust that the execution of the work will not disappoint the friends of the Artist, or the expectations of our Associates.

Some changes have been made, during the past year, in the management of the business department of the Association. It will be recollected that, during the greater part of the previous year, the business of soliciting subscriptions, collecting dues, and managing the exhibitions of the Society, was all in the hands of an individual, as superintendant, under a salary at the rate of \$1000 per annum. At the commencement of the present year a collector was employed to take charge of the subscription list, whose pay was made to depend on the amount of subscriptions actually paid in, and so graduated as to make it his interest to extend the number to the utmost. The result of this arrangement has been to effect a very considerable increase in the number of city subscribers, at an average expense of less than ten per cent. on the amount collected. The duties of collecting and distributing works for the exhibitions, and taking the general charge thereof, and of the property and affairs of the Association, were continued in the hands of the late superintendant, with a salary of \$500 per annum.

To the Corresponding Secretary was entrusted, as in the preceding year, the charge of maintaining and extending our list of subscribers abroad. With this view, he undertook in the early part of the season to visit the same places at the south, where so favorable an interest had already been excited. On this occasion very little success was realized in the collection of funds, and he found himself obliged to leave the further prosecution of the interests of the Association, at the different points, in the hands of the Honorary Secretaries, who had interested themselves in our behalf. His Report, on returning from this mission, gave us reason to hope that no falling off would occur in the number of subscribers heretofore obtained. We regret to say, however, that our expectations have not been realized; a list of only 222 paid subscribers having yet been received from these sources.

The person who had been employed for more than a year as assistant to the Superintendant, and of whose fidelity there appeared no reason to doubt, having proposed, on favorable terms, to make a trip to South Carolina to obtain subscribers, and dispose of some of the surplus engravings of the last year, he was empowered to go in behalf of the Association. Shortly after his arrival at Charleston, he remitted one hundred dollars, collected in that city, since which it appears that he has left the country, being a defalcator to the amount, as nearly as can be ascertained, of about \$300. He has returned all but 52 of the engravings entrusted to him, with papers relating to his mission; and the Committee are satisfied that he had no premeditated plan of defrauding us when he undertook the charge. It is but justice to him to state that he attributes his desertion to depression of spirits, from his ill success, and mortification in not being able to refund the monies he had appropriated to pay his expenses, beyond the specified allowance for his services. It is to be regretted that he had not the firmness to return with an honest statement of his case, and throw himself on the liberality of the Association.

The Annual Report of the Treasurer, as made up to the 14th instant, exhibits the following result:

Total amount of Receipts	\$3,676	49
Do. of Payments	3,676	30

and he now has in the course of collection, and not included above, southern drafts and funds due, to the amount of \$274 69, applicable to the payment of bills already passed, or becoming due.

The financial affairs of the Association, for the current year, may be stated as follows :

RECEIVED.			
	Dolls.	Cts.	Dolls. Cts.
Balance on hand, as from Report of 1840, ...	187	83	
Receipts from 609 subscribers in New York and vicinity, ...	3,045	00	
Receipts from 222 subscribers on list of Corresponding Secretary, ...	1,110	00	
Receipts from 46 subscribers, from other sources, ...	230	00	
Do. " 60 do., in Charleston, ...	100	00	
Receipts from rent of Exhibition Room, ...	110	00	
Receipts from proceeds of two Exhibitions, ...	422	33	
	—	—	5,205 16
DISBURSED.			
Rent of Rooms, ...	700	00	
Salary of Superintendent, ...	500	00	
Collecting subscribers in New York and vicinity, ...	217	50	
Do. do. by Corresponding Secretary, ...	222	00	
Printing, advertising, and stationery, ...	370	00	
Furniture, ...	61	00	
Gas-lights, transportation, labour, and incidentals, ...	825	00	
Expenses of the Engraving, (950 copies), ...	617	00	
Bills belonging to the expenses of the preceding year, brought in and paid in this, ...	791	04	
Works purchased for distribution, ...	1,059	00	
Defalcation of J. H. Ward, Collector, say	300	00	
	—	—	5,662 54

In this statement, a few of the items are necessarily indefinite, the bills not all having been brought in, or the expenses not all yet incurred; but the result will not vary essentially from the estimated amount. It will be observed that the estimated expenditures, together with the amount belonging to the year 1840, will somewhat exceed the actual receipts, leaving a tax of about \$450 on the resources of the coming year. It is difficult to avoid thus mingling, to some extent, the affairs of one year with another. In this case, the amount of property in hand, in engravings, plates, furniture, &c., is much greater than the amount of liabilities incurred.

It will be seen, by the foregoing statement of the pecuniary affairs of the Association, that, although the number of subscribers

has increased, still the disposable means for the purchase of works of Art have not been to the extent which might have been anticipated. During the spring Exhibition, the sum of \$1,059 was appropriated to the purchase of works then upon our walls, with the confident expectation of being able to expend as much more from the closing exhibition of the year. In this hope we have been disappointed.

The works selected and purchased for distribution are the following :

	TITLE.	ARTIST.	RESIDENCE.	PRICE.
No. 1.	Bust of Sir Walter Scott, after Chantry,	} by C. B. Ives,	New York.	200
2.	Landscape—the Silver Cascades,			
3.	Landscape—View near the White Mountains,	} by T. Doughty		260
4.	Indian Captives,			
5.	Landscape—Sunset,	} by Alvan Fisher,	Boston.	250
6.	Marine View,			
7.	Do.,	} by R. W. Weir,	West Point.	154
		} by Geo. Harvey,	New York.	100
		} by Thos. Birch,	Philadelphia.	60
		} by G. R. Bonfield,	do.	35

By the 11th Article of the Constitution, it is made the duty of the Committee of Management to state in their Report "the principles which governed them in their selection of works of Art." The governing principle in this selection, so far as the materiel of the Exhibition, and the funds at our control, furnished the means, was to acknowledge the greatest amount of merit in the different departments; and to offer to our Associates, in the distribution, not a large number of indifferent prizes, but such, though few, as should be worth possessing.

We would have it understood by Artists, that their works are to find sale through this institution, not because they are cheap, but because they have *merit*; and we would desire that the approbation of the managing Committee should fall upon no work that any Associate shall not be proud to place upon his own walls. We ardently desire to see the time—and we trust that it may still come—when the resources of the institution will be such as to enable its managers to offer the stimulus of reward to the best exertions of our best Artists. Nothing but this is wanting to secure to our country an elevated rank in the Arts. That our Artists

have talent of a high order, will be acknowledged by all who have carefully noted the public Exhibitions, here and elsewhere, for the last few years. In painting—not to speak of the elder members of the profession, whose reputation is well established—we have an unusual number of young aspirants, full of genius and ardor, who have exhibited capacities equal to almost any attainment. In sculpture, a succession of youthful competitors have astonished the public with the success of their early efforts, some of whom are already earning for themselves and their country an enviable reputation abroad. We would call these talents into active exertion. We would encourage them to illustrate the history and the scenery of our country, both rich in subjects. We would invite them to display on canvass, or embody in marble, their glowing conceptions of beauty, grace, and grandeur.

But this can only be effected by exciting in the public an interest and a taste for the Fine Arts, and by creating a demand for works of distinguished merit. And *these*, gentlemen, are the objects for which you are associated. It is for this that we ask your continued patronage, and your best exertions to extend to our institution the means of greater usefulness.

All which is respectfully submitted.

On motion, the Report was accepted and adopted.

It having been announced that the works of Art purchased for the Association, during the present year, would now be distributed by lot, Messrs. Tileston and Neilson were appointed tellers, to manage the drawing, which was done in the following manner: the names of all the members of the Association (except subscribers to the permanent Gallery) were put in one box, and seven tickets, numbered to correspond with the numbers on the paintings to be distributed, were placed in another box. The numbers and names were then drawn forth in the following order:

No. 1.—Bust of Sir Walter Scott, by Ives; W. McCrery, Richmond, Va.

No. 2.—Landscape—the Silver Cascades—by Doughty; J. B. Wood, New York.

No. 3.—Landscape—Scenery in the White Mountains—by Fisher;
John A. Bunting, New York.

No. 4.—Indian Captives, by Weir; Francis George Shaw, Boston, Mass.

No. 5.—Landscape—Sunset—by Harvey; S. C. Williams, New York.

No. 6.—Marine View, by Birch; Charles Carville, New York.

No. 7.—Marine View, by Bonfield; Jos. B. Sheffield, New York.

General Prosper M. Wetmore then offered the following resolution, which was unanimously adopted :

Resolved, That the cordial thanks of the Associates are due to Dr. John W. Francis, President of this Association, since its first organization, for the enlightened zeal and ability which he has at all times evinced to promote the welfare of the Association, and for the interest he has shown in the successful progress of the Arts.

An election for Officers, and Committee of Management, for the ensuing year, was then held, and resulted in the choice of the following gentlemen, (being the entire ticket recommended by the Nominating Committee):

DANIEL STANTON, *President*.

ANDREW WARNER, *Recording Secretary*.

JOHN P. RIDNER, *Corresponding Secretary*.

WM. H. JOHNSON, *Treasurer*.

Committee of Management.

PROSPER M. WETMORE,	WM. C. BRYANT,
DANIEL ELLIOT,	ABRAHAM BININGER,
JOHN H. AUSTEN,	E. C. BENEDICT,
CHARLES M. LEUPP,	STEPHEN M. CHESTER,
F. W. EDMONDS,	CHARLES F. BRIGGS,
JONATHAN STURGES,	RICHARD IRVIN,
JOHN H. GOURLIE,	THOS. W. TUCKER,
JOSEPH W. ALSOP, Jr.	

On motion, the meeting then adjourned.